

Message Text

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E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: PFOR, OVIP (ROGERS, WILLIAM P.)

SUBJECT: RADIO/ TV HIGHLIGHTS

1. MEDIA CONCENTRATED HEAVILY ON WATERGATE EVENING MAY 22 AND MORNING MAY 23, THOUGH FOREIGN AFFAIRS WERE NOT NEGLECTED WITH FACTUAL REPORTS ON KISSINGER- THO TALKS, COSTA RICAN PRESIDENT FIGUERES' COMMENTS ON VESCO, " COD WAR" AND OTHER SUBJECTS.

2. IMPORTANT FACET OF WATERGATE STORY WERE REPORTS ON 4,000 WORD STATEMENT ISSUED BY PRESIDENT IN WHICH HE ACKNOWLEDGED PROBABLE WRONGDOING IN WHITE HOUSE BUT REPEATED THAT HE HAD NO KNOWLEDGE OF SUCH ACTIVITIES. PRESIDENT ACKNOWLEDGED " WITH HINDSIGHT IT IS APPARENT THAT I SHOULD HAVE GIVEN MORE HEED TO THE WARNING SIGNALS I RECEIVED ALONG THE WAY ABOUT A WATERGATE COVERAGE." NEWS PROGRAMS FEATURED NUMEROUS COMMENTS ON PRESIDENT'S STATEMENT. SOME WERE PROPHET- OF- DOOM- LIKE (E. G., DAN RATHER IN MORNING RADIO " FIRST LINE REPORT" WHO NOTED THAT THE LINE OF DEFENSE WAS NOW REDUCED TO AROUND THE OVAL OFFICE)

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BUT MAJORITY GAVE VIEW THAT ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF WRONGDOING COUPLED WITH FIRM ASSERTION OF INNOCENCE WAS LIKELY TO HELP PRESIDENT.

3. POLYGRAPH TESTS:

A. MARVIN KALB, CBS RADIO AFTERNOON NEWS MAY 22:
" THE SPOKESMAN HERE ADMITTED TODAY THAT BACK IN THE SUMMER OF 1971 THREE STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS WERE ASKED TO UNDERGO LIE DETECTOR TESTS. THEY AGREED AND THE TESTS WERE DONE BY THE CIA NOT THE FBI, AT THE REQUEST OF THE WHITE HOUSE, SPECIFICALLY AT THE REQUEST OF EGIL KROGH, A FORMER AIDE WHO WORKED FOR JOHN ERLICHMAN. THE FBI REFUSED TO GIVE THE LIE DETECTOR TEST TO AMERICAN GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES AND THE WHITE HOUSE THEN ORDERED THE CIA TO DO THESE TESTS, THOUGH NO ONE HERE CAN EXPLAIN WHY THIS IS A CIA FUNCTION OR WHY THE CIA EVEN AGREED, GIVEN THE FACT THAT THE FBI REFUSED. SECRETARY ROGERS WAS CONCERNED ABOUT SECURITY LEAKS HERE AND HE GAVE HIS PERMISSION AFTER SAYING THAT THE OFFICIALS DID NOT HAVE TO UNDERGO THESE LIE DETECTOR TESTS -- THAT IT WAS ALL TO BE VOLUNTARY. HOWEVER, THE OFFICIALS WERE TOLD THAT THE REQUEST CAME FROM THE WHITE HOUSE. THE OFFICIALS WERE ALL SUBSEQUENTLY CLEARED OF ANY WRONGDOING."

B. MARVIN KALB, CBS RADIO MORNING NEWS MAY 23: " EGIL KROGH WHO WORKED AT THE WHITE HOUSE FOR JOHN ERLICHMAN WANTED THREE STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS AND ONE PENTAGON OFFICIAL TO UNDERGO LIE DETECTOR TESTS IN CONNECTION WITH ALLEGED LEAKS OF HIGHLY SENSITIVE INFORMATION. J. EDGAR HOOVER, THEN HEAD OF THE FBI, TOLD THE WHITE HOUSE THAT HE WOULD NOT ALLOW THE FBI TO ENGAGE IN LIE DETECTOR TESTS OF U. S. GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES. KROGH THEN TURNED TO THE CIA TO DO THE JOB AND THE CIA AGREED, EVEN THOUGH OFFICIALS SAY THAT WAS NOT A PROPER FUNCTION FOR THE CIA ACCORDING TO TRADITION AND LAW. NEITHER SECRETARY ROGERS NOR DEFENSE SECRETARY LAIRD OBJECTED TO THE CIA'S ROLE IN CONDUCTING THESE LIE DETECTOR TESTS OF THEIR OWN OFFICIALS. THERE IS A GREAT DEAL OF EMBARRASSMENT ABOUT THIS ALL NOW, BUT TWO YEARS AGO OFFICIALS SAY, " WHEN THE WHITE HOUSE CALLED EVERYONE JUMPED" -- EVERYONE
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APPARENTLY EXCEPT HOOVER."

4. CEASEFIRE VIOLATIONS: PETER KALISCHER, CBS RADIO FROM PARIS MORNING NEWS MAY 23: " JUST BEFORE HIS 6 TH MEETING WITH HANOI'S LE DUC THO THIS MORNING HENRY KISSINGER TOLD NEWSMEN HE WILL PROBABLY FLY BACK TO WASHINGTON TONIGHT, THUS ENDING ONE WEEK OF NEGOTIATIONS AIMED AT PATCHING

UP THE LEAKY VIETNAM PEACE AGREEMENT. THIS WAS FORE-
SHADOWED BY THE DEPARTURE FOR SAIGON LAST NIGHT OF HIS
AIDE AMBASSADOR WILLIAM SULLIVAN. SULLIVAN IS BELIEVED
CARRYING AGREED CLARIFICATIONS OF THE AGREEMENT TO
PRESIDENT THIEU WHO HAS SAID HIS GOVERNMENT WOULD NOT

BE BOUND BY ANY NEW PROVISIONS EFFECTING SOUTH
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